

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 ACDA-19 OMB-01

CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /160 W

----- 014389

R 031240Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5435

DIA WASHDC

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

ZNE/USINT BAGHDAD

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 13684

DEPT PASS CAIRO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, XF

SUBJECT: SPOILING TACTICS OF FEDAYEEN "DIE-HARDS"

REF: BEIRUT 13520 (NOTALA)

1. PFLP WEEKLY AL HADAF CARRIED LEAD EDITORIAL DEC. 1
VIOLENTLY CRITICIZING "WEAKLINGS" AMONG PLO LEADERSHIP
(I.E., 'ARAFAT AND CO.) WHO, "TIRED OF ROAD OF
REVOLUTION" AND ALLEGEDLY EAGER TO PARTICIPATE IN SOME FUTURE
"STRAW-GOVERNMENT" OF PALESTINE, ARE IN PROCESS OF
BETRAYING FEDAYEEN MOVEMENT AND SACRIFICING INTERESTS
OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. DENOUNCING PLO LEADERS AS
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UNREPRESENTATIVE OF THEIR FOLLOWERS, HADAF CLAIMED

PLO LEADERSHIP HAS NO RIGHT "DRAG OUR MASSES AND OUR MOVEMENT" TO FORTHCOMING ME PEACE CONFERENCE. IT CALLED FOR "INTERNAL REVOLUTION" WITHIN PLO AGAINST "ERRONEOUS ATTITUDES" AND "BUREAUCRATIC PRACTICES" OF CURRENT LEADERSHIP, REJECTION OF ALL PLANS TO ESTABLISH PALESTINIAN ENTITY IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, AND CONTINUATION OF "ARMED STRUGGLES" AGAINST NOT ONLY ISRAEL BUT ALSO HOLDERS OF "WRONG POLITICAL VIEWS" WITHIN FEDAYEEN MOVEMENT AND ARAB GOVERNMENTS.

2. WE ALSO NOTE PFLP STATEMENT ISSUED HERE SAME DAY CLAIMED ITS FORCES HAD AMBUSHED IDF PATROL NEAR ZARAIT ON LEBANESE-ISRAELI BORDER, KILLING OR WOUNDING LATTER'S ENTIRE COMPLEMENT OF 16 MEN. REGARDLESS OF ACCURACY OF THIS CLAIM (WE GATHER IDF SPOKESMAN LATER CONFIRMED THAT SOME ACTION HAD OCCURRED NEAR ZARAIT), RELIABLE LEBANESE ARMY SOURCE HAS TOLD US THAT WHOLE SERIES OF FEDAYEEN BORDER PROVOCATIONS HAS TAKEN PLACE IN RECENT DAYS. (SEE DAO BEIRUT 1027.) ARMY IS CONVINCED THESE ACTIONS HAVE BEEN MOUNTED DELIBERATELY BY DISSIDENT FEDAYEEN ELEMENTS (FROM ALL ORGANIZATIONS) INTENT ON EMBARRASSING PLO LEADERSHIP AND DEMONSTRATING THAT FEDAYEEN RANK-AND-FILE ARE DETERMINED TO CONTINUE "ARMED STRUGGLE" WITH ISRAEL COME WHAT MAY. AS NOTED REFTTEL, WE BELIEVE KLM HIJACKING WAS CARRIED OUT WITH SAME OBJECTIVE IN MIND.

3. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THAT PFLP IS TAKING ORGANIZATIONAL LEAD IN AGITATING AGAINST FATAH "WEAKNESS", WITH LIKELY SUPPORT OF LIBYAN MONEY AND INFLUENCE WITH SOME OF SMALLER FEDAYEEN GROUPS SUCH AS PFLP/GC. HOWEVER, THERE ARE DISSIDENTS AMONG FATAH AND SA'IQA IN SUFFICIENT NUMBER TO CAUSE LEADERS OF BOTH THESE KEY ORGANIZATIONS CONSIDERABLE CONCERN, AND TO CAUSE THEM TO BE VERY CAREFUL IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON ALGIERS SUMMIT, PLO PARTICIPATION IN PEACE TALKS AND EVENTUAL CREATION OF INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE. ROLE OF IRAQ IN THIS OPPOSITION TO FATAH/SA'IQA LINE IS UNCLEAR, BUT IT IS ASSUMED LOCALLY THAT THAT CONCERN OVER DISSENT WITHIN PLO, AS WELL AS OVER

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GENERALLY NON-COOPERATIVE IRAQI ATTITUDE, LAY BEHIND SUDDEN TRIP BY PONOMAREV TO BAGHDAD.
BUFFUM

NOTE BY OCT: NOT PASSED CAIRO.

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